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IN BRIEF

A Gon-gon *Pterodroma (mollis) feae* in Israel

In *Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1: 130) it is reported on the authority of Professor H. Mendelssohn that a species of Soft-plumaged Petrel was found dead on the west shore of the Dead Sea in February 1963. Since it is of interest to know whether it arrived there from the Atlantic via the Mediterranean or from the Southern Ocean via the Red Sea I enquired whether further details were available. I am grateful to Tsila Shariv for the information that it was found on 8 February and is preserved in the Department of Zoology at Tel Aviv University. The wing measures 260 mm, the tail 115 mm, the culmen 27 mm, the tarsus 33 mm and the overall length is 383 mm. This lies in the region of overlap of the southern form *Pterodroma mollis* and its larger representative in the North Atlantic *P. feae*; but it is reported to have a white breast without a pectoral band, which is more characteristic of *P. feae*. This suggests that it probably came from the North Atlantic via the Mediterranean, in contrast (for example) with a wasted Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* in the same collection found on the beach at Eilat on 13 January 1958, which must have come from the Indian Ocean (*Ibis* 109: 159, 110: 27).

This information came too late for inclusion in Bourne (1983) (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 103: 52-58).

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Dunlin *Calidris alpina* in South America

Petersen *et al.* (1981) have published data on what they believed to be the first Dunlin *Calidris alpina* record for South America. They recorded a number of sightings in Peru during 1978 and 1979. While working on geographical variation of the Dunlin (Greenwood 1979) I examined a series of skins from the Copenhagen University Museum. Amongst these was an adult male taken on 15 January 1926 at Cayenne, French Guiana (4° 55'N, 52° 18'W) (Catalogue number 36.029).